

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 RSC-01 DRC-01

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P 280520Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4416

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FOR NEA CONSTABLE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, (PERCY, CHARLES)

SUBJECT: CODEL PERCY

REF: STATE 212459

1. IT WAS GOOD OF SENATOR PERCY TO OFFER TO HELP US WHEN HE TALKS TO PRIME MINISTER MUJIB ON WEDNESDAY. PERHAPS YOU OR ONE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES IN NEA WILL BE BRIEFING THE SENATOR ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN BANGLADESH BEFORE THE LUNCH AND, IF YOU SEE NO OBJECTION, YOU MIGHT PASS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO HIM.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: I APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE ANY ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US DURING THE LUNCH FOR PRIME MINISTER MUJIB. WHILE I HAVE NO VERY SPECIFIC MATTERS TO SUGGEST PRESSING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT THIS TIME, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS MAY BE USEFUL TO YOU AS BACKGROUND FOR YOUR CONVERSATION WITH HIM.

3. THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH IS GOOD, THE ATMOSPHERE HAVING IMPROVED STEADILY OVER RECENT MONTHS. THE STRONG ANTI-AMERICAN BIAS SO EVIDENT IN THE EARLY MONTHS AFTER INDEPENDENCE IN THE WIDESPREAD ATTACKS ON US IN THE PRESS AND THE PHYSICAL ATTACKS ON OUR USIS INSTALLATION IS GONE. ALL DOORS ARE NOW WIDE OPEN TO US, EMPHATICALLY INCLUDING

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THE PRIME MINISTER'S, AND WE HAVE FREQUENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR

FRANK AND FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL THE SENIOR OFFICIALS
OF THE GOVERNMENT.

4. BANGLADESH HAS SOUGHT SIMILAR GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES, AND WE SHARE AND ENCOURAGE THE VIEW THAT SUCH
A BALANCED APPROACH BEST SERVES BANGLABUSH'S INTERESTS. THERE
IS ENOUGH TO BE DONE HERE TO REQUIRE HELP FROM EVERY POSSIBLE
QUARTER. WHILE OUR OWN VIEWS NECESSARILY DIVERGE FROM THE BDG'S
IN SOME AREAS, WE UNDERSTAND THE BDG'S MOTIVATIONS AND THESE
DIVERGENCES HAVE NOT PREVENTED THE ADVANCEMENT OF OUR OWN
RELATIONS.

5. THERE ARE TWO POINTS WE NOW MAKE TO OUR BENGALIEE FRIENDS
WHEN WE CAN. THE FIRST IS TO ENCOURAGE THEM IN THE PROCESS
OF RECONCILIATION WITH PAKISTAN, WHILE REMINDING THEM THAT THE
PROBLEMS THEY CONFRONT IN THIS PROCESS CAN, IN THE END,
ONLY BE SOLVED BY THE PARTIES THEMSELVES, MUJIB HAS, WE
BELIEVE, SHOWN HIMSELF GENEROUS IN THE PAST IN HIS STEPS TO
ADVANCE THE CAUSE AND WE HAVE APPLAUDED HIS EFFORTS. BANGLADESH
PRESENTLY SEES "PAVISTANI INTRANSIGENCE" AS THE BAR TO

FURTHER PROGRESS BUT WE ARE STILL QUIETLY URGED THEM TO KEEP
TRYING.

6. SECOND, WE ARE TRYING TO RERSUADE BANGLADESH OFFICIALS THAT
THEY NEED TO PUT THEIR HOUSE IN BETTER ORDER TO ADVANCE THEIR
COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE APPRECIATE THE ENORMOUS
NEW PROBLEMS CREATED FOR BANGLADESH BY THE SEVERE ESCALATION OF
PRICES AS A RESULT OF INFLATION AND THE ENERGY CRISIS, AND NOQ BY
THE FLOODS, AND WE ARE TRYING TO HELP AS BEST WE CAN.
BUT AS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE 25-MEMBER "AID TO BANGLADESH"
CONSORTIUM PREPARES TO MEET OCT 24-25., DONOR COUNTRIES ARE
INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WHETHER THE BDG IS DOING ENOUGH TO HELP
ITSELF AND WHETHER THE CURRENT BANGLADESH PLANNING
STRATEGY IS AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR ANY EXPECTATION OF LONG-TERM
ECOMQMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE WANT TVSGET OUT OF RELIEF AND ON
WITH DEVELOPMENT.

7. ANYTHING YOU MIGHT SAY TO THE SHEIK THAT WOULD REINFORCE
THESE IDEAS IN HISLMIND WOULD BE HELPFUL. I AM SORRY YOU
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WEREN'T ABLE TO MAKE IT TO DACCA DURING YOUR TRIP TO INDIA
AND BHUTAN BUT HOPE WE CAN SEE YOU HERE BEFORE LONG.
BEST REGARDS. UNQUOTE.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DACCA04400
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740274-0310
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974095/aaaaadv.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 212459
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL PERCY
TAGS: OREP, (PERCY, CHARLES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005